

What is claimed is:

1. A guidance information notification apparatus in a communication network system, for notifying guidance information to at least one of origination and destination terminal units having a telephone function via a switchboard,
5 the guidance information notification apparatus comprising:
 - acquisition means for acquiring at least one of origination and destination telephone numbers from the switchboard;
 - 10 conversion means for, with the use of a first country code with which at least one language used in a country or a country district can be identified, converting the acquired telephone number into the first country code based on the correspondence relationship between a telephone number pre-associated with the first country code and the telephone
15 number acquired by the acquisition means;
 - a database in which the first country code is stored in association with guidance information in the language;
 - 20 selection means for selecting the guidance information associated with the first country code which has been converted by the conversion means, from the database; and
 - notification means for notifying the guidance information selected by the selection means to the terminal unit via the switchboard.

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2. A guidance information notification apparatus in a communication network system, for notifying guidance

information to at least one of origination and destination terminal units having a telephone function via a switchboard, the guidance information notification apparatus comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring at least one of
5 origination and destination telephone numbers from the
switchboard;

conversion means for, with the use of a second country code with which the language used in the area where a switchboard managing at least one of the origination and destination 10 telephone numbers is installed can be identified, converting the acquired telephone number into the second country code based on the correspondence relationship between a telephone number pre-associated with the second country code and the telephone number acquired by the acquisition means;

15 a database in which the second country code is stored in association with guidance information in the language;

selection means for selecting the guidance information associated with the second country code which has been converted by the conversion means, from the database; and

20 notification means for notifying the guidance information selected by the selection means to the terminal unit via the switchboard.

3. The guidance information notification apparatus in a
25 communication network system, according to claim 1 or 2,
further comprising:

setting means for causing information which directs processing of the guidance information to be set via the switchboard;

wherein the notification means notifies the guidance 5 information selected by the selection means to the terminal unit in response to the direction set by the setting means.

4. A communication network system provided with a guidance information notification apparatus for notifying guidance 10 information to at least one of origination and destination terminal units having a telephone function via a switchboard; wherein

the terminal unit comprises:

storage means for storing an origination country code 15 corresponding to the language understandable to the owner of the origination terminal unit; and

sending means for sending the origination country code stored in the storage means when a destination telephone number is sent from the origination terminal unit; and

20 the guidance information notification apparatus comprises:

first acquisition means for acquiring the origination country code from the origination terminal unit via the switchboard;

25 second acquisition means for acquiring the destination telephone number from the switchboard;

conversion means for, with the use of a destination country code with which at least one language used in a country or a country district can be identified, converting the acquired destination telephone number into the destination country code
5 based on the correspondence relationship between a telephone number pre-associated with the destination country code and the acquired destination telephone number;

a database in which the destination country code is stored in association with guidance information in the language;

10 selection means for selecting the guidance information associated with at least one of the origination country code acquired by the first acquisition means and the destination country code converted by the conversion means, from the database; and

15 notification means for notifying the guidance information selected by the selection means to the terminal unit via the switchboard.

5. A communication network system provided with a guidance
20 information notification apparatus for notifying guidance information to at least one of origination and destination terminal units having a telephone function via a switchboard, wherein

the terminal unit comprises:

25 storage means for storing an origination country code corresponding to the language understandable to the owner of the origination terminal unit and storing a destination country

code corresponding to the language understandable to the owner of the destination terminal unit in association with a destination telephone number; and

5 sending means for, when the destination telephone number is sent from the origination terminal unit, reading the destination country code associated with the destination telephone number and the origination country code from the storage means and sending the codes; and

10 the guidance information notification apparatus comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring at least one of the origination and destination country codes from the terminal unit via the switchboard;

15 a database in which the origination and destination country codes are stored in association with guidance information in languages understandable to owners of the origination and destination terminal units, respectively;

20 selection means for selecting the guidance information associated with at least one of the origination and destination country codes acquired by the acquisition means, from the database; and

notification means for notifying the guidance information selected by the selection means to the terminal unit via the switchboard.

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6. A guidance information notification method for notifying guidance information to at least one of origination and

destination terminal units having a telephone function via a switchboard, in a communication network system, the guidance information notification method comprising:

a first step of acquiring at least one of origination
5 and destination telephone numbers from the switchboard;

a second step of, with the use of a first country code with which at least one language used in a country or a country district can be identified, converting the acquired telephone number into the first country code based on the correspondence
10 relationship between a telephone number pre-associated with the first country code and the telephone number acquired at the first step;

a third step of selecting, from a database in which the first country code is stored in association with guidance
15 information in the language, the guidance information associated with the first country code converted at the second step; and

a fourth step of notifying the guidance information selected at the third step to the terminal unit via the
20 switchboard.

7. A guidance information notification method for notifying guidance information to at least one of origination and destination terminal units having a telephone function via a switchboard, in a communication network system, the guidance information notification method comprising:

a first step of acquiring at least one of origination and destination telephone numbers from the switchboard;

a second step of, with the use of a second country code with which the language used in the area where a switchboard

5 managing at least one of the origination and destination telephone numbers is installed can be identified, converting the telephone number acquired at the first step into the second country code based on the correspondence relationship between a telephone number pre-associated with the second country code
10 and the acquired telephone number;

a third step of selecting from a database in which the second country code is stored in association with guidance information in the language, the guidance information associated with the second country code converted at the second
15 step; and

a fourth step of notifying the guidance information selected at the third step to the terminal unit via the switchboard.

20 8. A guidance information notification method for notifying guidance information to at least one of origination and destination terminal units having a telephone function via a switchboard, in a communication network system, the guidance information notification method comprising:

25 a first step of, when a destination telephone number is sent from the origination terminal unit, sending an origination

country code corresponding to the language understandable to the owner of the origination terminal unit;

a second step of acquiring the origination country code sent at the first step from the switchboard;

5 a third step of acquiring the destination telephone number sent at the first step from the switchboard;

a fourth step of, with the use of a destination country code with which at least one language used in a country or a country district can be identified, converting the

10 destination telephone number acquired at the third step into the destination country code based on the correspondence relationship between a telephone number pre-associated with the destination country code and the acquired destination telephone number;

15 a fifth step of selecting, from a database in which the destination country code is stored in association with guidance information in the language, the guidance information associated with at least one of the origination country code acquired at the first step and the destination country code 20 converted at the fourth step; and

a sixth step of notifying the guidance information selected at the fifth step to the terminal unit via the switchboard.

25 9. A guidance information notification method for notifying guidance information to at least one of origination and destination terminal units having a telephone function via

a switchboard, in a communication network system, the guidance information notification method comprising:

- 1 a first step of, when a destination telephone number is sent from the origination terminal unit, reading from storage means for storing a destination country code corresponding to the language understandable to the owner of the destination terminal unit in association with the destination telephone number, the destination country code associated with the sent destination telephone number and sending the destination country code, as well as reading from storage means for storing an origination country code corresponding to the language understandable to the owner of the origination terminal unit, the origination country code and sending the origination country code;
- 2 a second step of acquiring at least one of the origination and destination country codes from the origination terminal unit via the switchboard;
- 3 a third step of selecting, from a database in which the origination and destination country codes are stored in association with guidance information in languages understandable to the owners of the origination and destination terminal units, respectively, the guidance information associated with at least one of the origination and destination country codes acquired at the second step; and
- 4 a fourth step of notifying the guidance information selected at the third step to the terminal unit via the switchboard.